

*Macbeth* Act 5

Study Guide questions

**Sc. 1.**

What is the mental state of Lady Macbeth during the sleepwalking scene?  
What does she carry? What does she do as she walks?  
What seems to bother her the most? What does the doctor fear will happen?  
When Lady Macbeth says, "All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand," she is  
echoing a thought expressed by Macbeth in Act II, Scene 2.. What are Macbeth's exact  
words? What do these words mean?  
How is Lady Macbeth's statement different from her comment about water made immediately after  
the murder?

**Sc. 2.**

What does this scene reveal about Macbeth as a person and as a ruler?

**Sc. 3.**

Why does Macbeth no longer fear death?  
How does he feel about old age?  
How does Macbeth respond to the doctor's report regarding Lady Macbeth's ill health?

**Sc. 4.**

Relate this scene to the prophecies given to Macbeth through the apparitions.

**Sc. 5.**

When Macbeth hears the cry of women, he responds by commenting on his feelings. What does  
he say?  
Is he aware of the changes that have taken place within him? Explain.  
Why does Macbeth respond with such indifference to Lady Macbeth's death?  
What does the "Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow" soliloquy reveal about Macbeth?  
How does this scene show Macbeth's increasing desperation?

**Sc. 6.**

What is Malcolm's position among the nobles, as suggested in this scene?

**Sc. 7.**

What tactical error does Macbeth make? What happens as a result?

**Sc. 8.**

Why does Macbeth still have confidence when he first encounters Macduff?

How does Macbeth react to Macduff's revelation regarding his birth?

How does Macbeth's final act show that he still possesses a trace of his former nobility?

Is death the ultimate disaster for Macbeth? Explain.

What are Malcolm's first acts as the new king of Scotland?

What kind of king will he most likely be? Give evidence from the play.

From <http://members.cox.net/jpetitbon/macbethact5.htmj>.

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